

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Commission

ITEM

11

INFORMATION

TOPIC State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program
 2006 Annual Compliance Report

The Department is submitting the *State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program 2006 Annual Compliance Report* to the Environmental Protection Commission for information purposes.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 require the Department to issue an annual report of the SDWA violations in the state. This report fulfills the reporting requirement in Iowa for the 2006 calendar year. It was prepared by the Department's Water Supply Engineering & Operations Sections in the Water Quality Bureau of the Environmental Services Division.

Development of the report was accomplished through the use of the state water supply database. It was provided to EPA by the July 1st deadline. An electronic copy will also be provided to the Governor, legislative officials, and members of the SDWA Advisory Group.

Report highlights:

- The number of health-based standards violations increased while the number of public water supply systems with violations slightly decreased from 2005 levels. Over the past 10 years, the percentage of Iowa's more than 2,000 public water supply systems that are not in compliance with all health-based standards ranges from 7.7% to 10.1%. The three standards that were violated most frequently in 2006 were coliform bacteria, nitrate nitrogen, and disinfection byproducts (total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids), which account for 83.3% of the violations.
- The number of systems with a fecal coliform bacteria violation increased in 2006 to the same level as in 2000, with 19 systems having a total of 31 violations.
- Both the number of major monitoring and reporting violations and the number of systems with those violations increased over 2005. The 79.5% of systems in compliance with all major monitoring and reporting violations remained in the past eight-year range of 78.2 – 82.7%. The increase in the number of monitoring violations is partially attributable to five systems that did not collect the required volatile and synthetic organic chemical samples, and six systems that did not collect the required inorganic chemical samples, all of which are multi-contaminant parameter groups. Disinfectant monitoring and reporting also provide many more opportunities for violation by the systems.
- There were 31 systems that received a violation for failure to obtain a certified operator during the year. This is an increase from previous years, likely due to better identification of such systems by DNR staff.
- There were 52 community systems that failed to prepare and distribute a consumer confidence report in 2006.

The electronic report will be available on the IDNR's website at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/drinking/reports.html>. Copies of the report are also available to the public upon request.

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